

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081585

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS
JERUSALEM FROM TEL AVIV 09 APR 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2123

LIMDIS

DEPT PLS PASS AMB KEATING

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IS, XF

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF HAIM HERZOG ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT
AS ISRAELI UN PERMREP

1. WE HAD OCCASION RECENTLY TO TALK TO ISRAELI UN
PERMREP DESIGNATE, HAIM HERZOG, ABOUT HIS APPOINTMENT.
HERZOG SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED IT ONLY WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE.
HE GAVE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST
TO THOSE DEALING WITH HIM WHEN HE TAKES UP HIS POST IN
AUGUST.

2. HERZOG SAID THAT HE WAS, IN THE FIRST PLACE, ENTIRELY
SATISFIED CARRYING ON HIS PRESENT PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE
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AND ROLE AS A WELL-KNOWN AND SOUGHT-AFTER COMMENTATOR ON
ISRAELI-ARAB POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS. SECONDLY, HE

THOUGHT THE UN HAD BECOME DEGRADED AND DID NOT THINK THAT IT WAS A FORUM IN WHICH MAJOR DECISIONS ON ISRAEL'S FUTURE WOULD BE TAKEN. THE UN WAS VERY UNPOPULAR IN ISRAEL (HE THOUGHT IT WAS IN THE US, TOO) AND HIS WAS BOUND TO BE A TOUGH JOB.

HE WASN'T CONCERNED ABOUT TAKING THE HEAT, BUT WANTED TO USE HIS CAPABILITIES PRODUCTIVELY.

3. FINALLY, HE SAID, HE HAD ASKED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE TAKING UP HIS POST BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN, IN SOME MATTERS, A STRONG CRITIC OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE WOULD HAVE TO USE THE INTERVAL BETWEEN NOW AND TAKING UP HIS POST IN AUGUST TO TONE DOWN HIS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOI POLICIES, AS WELL AS TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE GOI TOWARDS CHANGES IN SOME OF THEM. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S PALESTINIAN POLICY. HE SAID THAT LAST YEAR HE HAD BECOME CONVINCED, FOR REASONS BOTH OF POLICY AND EXPEDIENCY, THAT THE GOI MUST DEVELOP A MORE FLEXIBLE WAY TO DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. HE CLAIMED CREDIT FOR HAVING DISCUSSED THIS WITH THEN-INFORMATION MINISTER YAARIV WHO HAD ACCEPTED HERZOG'S SUGGESTION FOR A "YES..BUT" APPROACH. YES, WE WILL TALK TO THE PLO, BUT ONLY WHEN THEY RECOGNIZE OUR EXISTENCE AND ABANDON TERRORIST TACTICS TO ATTAIN THEIR GOALS. YAARIV WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, MADE HIS PROPOSALS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SHOT DOWN. HERZOG THOUGHT THIS A COSTLY ERROR WHICH WOULD SOONER OR LATER HAVE TO BE RECTIFIED. HE WOULD PREFER, HE SAID SOMEWHAT WISTFULLY, THAT THIS HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE HE BEGAN TO EXPLAIN AND DEFEND ISRAELI POLICIES AS HER UN SPOKESMAN. VELIOTES UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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